

Environment Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote for the creation of a Bear Hunting Season in CT by supporting Craig Miner's SB 522.

CT currently has a healthy and growing Black Bear population. The current population is estimated to be 600 to 700 bears, and is growing at a rate of 10 to 15% per year.

The DEEP recorded 6,656 Reports of Bear Activity from 3/4/16 – 2/10/17. In addition, there were 961 Bear Conflicts reported.

It is these Bear/Human interactions that rise to the level of Conflicts that are the problem, and which necessitate a Hunting Season.

Hunting is a Biologically sound, Science based method to remove animals from a population. Often it is done to keep the levels at or below the Biological Carrying Capacity of the Habitat. In a heavily populated area, biologists are more concerned with "Cultural" Carrying Capacity, defined as the population that can be sustained without undue conflicts.

(We have seen this quite often with Connecticut's Deer.)

Bears in CT very often show no fear (or even shyness) of humans or pets. This can lead to dangerous conflicts. Black Bears in areas where they are Hunted run at the first sign of a Human, which keeps both people and the Bears safer.

The DEEP Biologists feel that we need a Hunting Season. The only arguments against this are emotional in nature, not logical or scientific.

Please vote to allow the Trained Biologists to do their job, which will manage the bears, allow for a healthy population, and also keep the residents of CT Safe.

Thank you,

**Chas Catania**  
Sherman, CT

Note: No trees were killed in the sending of this message, but a large number of electrons were terribly inconvenienced.